



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 10, 1999

### **H.R. 82**

**A bill to amend Title 5, United States Code, to provide that the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund be excluded from the budget of the United States Government.**

*As introduced on January 6, 1999*

### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

H.R. 82 would exclude the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) from the President's budget proposal, the Congressional budget, any general statutory limitation on outlays, and orders issued under part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

This bill would not affect direct spending or receipts and would not be subject to pay-as-you-go procedures. Under scorekeeping rule 13 (in the conference report on the Balanced Budget Act of 1997), proposals to reclassify spending and revenues, including those reclassifying on-budget items as off-budget, are not shown as having any budgetary effect.

By itself, taking programs off-budget does not change total spending or the federal government's overall surplus or deficit. However, it might be easier to increase spending on retirement benefits in the future if the CSRDF were exempt from the budgetary controls and enforcement procedures that apply to most other programs.

H.R. 82 aims to give the CSRDF the same off-budget treatment currently given to the Social Security trust funds. However, the bill's wording makes it unclear if the CSRDF would be excluded from all budgetary controls. The bill would exclude the CSRDF "from any order issued under part C" of the Deficit Control Act. This might exclude the CSRDF only from sequestration orders (an exemption it already enjoys under current law) while leaving it subject to other parts of the Deficit Control Act, such as calculation of pay-as-you-go balances. By comparison, the Social Security trust funds are fully excluded from the Deficit Control Act by section 13301 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 82 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Eric Rollins

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex

Impact on the Private Sector: John Harris

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Paul N. Van de Water

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis